



COLLEGE ACCESS
BOOT CAMP



Agenda

- Welcome/Introductions
- Goals for the Day
- TDOE State Counseling Standards Related to College Access
- Designing College & Career Focused Courses of Study
- College Access 101 – TN College & Career Advising Landscape
- CollegeForTN.org
- College Access Best Practices
- Creating & Implementing a College Access Team
- Financial Aid Updates
- Adult Learner Initiatives: Navigate Reconnect
- Q & A
- Announcements & Closing

Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC)

Formed in 1967, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission is the state's higher education coordinating board and is responsible for an array of duties under TCA 49-7-202:

- Administration of the outcomes-based funding formula
- Approval of all new academic degree programs
- Development of the state master plan for higher education
- Serving as the hub for postsecondary data analysis and research
- Authorization and regulation of proprietary institutions
- Serving as the state approving agency for veteran education benefits

Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC)

Created by the Tennessee General Assembly in 1974 as a non-profit corporation with the merging of the Tennessee Educational Loan Corporation and the Tennessee Tuition Grant Program, the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) administers over 20 different state student financial aid programs.

- Administers over \$500 million in state aid
- Outreach and training to students, families, and staff
- Consults with postsecondary financial aid offices to improve program effectiveness, compliance, and efficiency

College Access and Outreach Bureau



Why do we need college and career counselors/advisors?



- [GEAR UP TN Site](#)
[Coordinators: Student Success Stories - YouTube](#)

Tennessee College Access Bootcamp

Amanda McClusky

*Senior Manager, College and Career Readiness
College, Career and Technical Education*



Agenda

- Session Framing
- High School and Beyond Planning
- Graduation Requirement Updates
- Early Postsecondary Opportunities
- Work-Based Learning Opportunities
- Career Coaching Support





Session Framing

Our Work and Our Why

- **Career Advising:** Enhances graduation rates and college enrollment, particularly benefiting first-generation and low-income students.
- **Work-Based Learning (WBL):** Boosts skill development, student engagement, and career readiness through real-world experiences.
- **Early Postsecondary Opportunities (EPSOs):** Increases college credit accumulation, degree completion, and economic mobility for students.



The Coordinated School Health Model



Department of
Education

Coordinated
School Health



School Counseling Standards Related to College Access

	Academics			
Standard	K-2	3-5	6-8	9-12
<i>AA6. Build aspirations for postsecondary education and training</i>	*	*	*	*
<i>AK2. Describe the benefits of education for career, life management, and personal and professional satisfaction</i>	*	*	*	*
<i>AK3. Articulate belief that postsecondary education and life-long learning are necessary for long-term career success</i>	*	*	*	*
<i>AE3. Create a secondary educational plan that includes transition to postsecondary education and the workforce, including the <u>High School and Beyond Plan</u> in accordance with the <u>Middle Grades Policy 2.102</u> and <u>High School Policy 2.103</u></i>			*	*

School Counseling Standards Related to College Access

	Social and Personal			
Standard	K-2	3-5	6-8	9-12
<i>SS8. Persevere through challenges to achieve goals</i>	*	*	*	*
<i>SE1. Participate in service projects, service learning, and/or philanthropic activities</i>	*	*	*	*



School Counseling Standards Related to College Access

	College and Career			
Standard	K-2	3-5	6-8	9-12
<i>CA1. Develop and articulate postsecondary education and career aspirations</i>	*	*	*	*
<i>CK4. Research and summarize the education and training needed to achieve specified career goals</i>		*	*	*
<i>CK5. Examine and utilize resources for college affordability planning</i>			*	*
<i>CK6. Research, select, and participate in postsecondary admissions and scholarship applications processes</i>				*
<i>CS5. Set clear, ambitious, and obtainable postsecondary goals</i>			*	*
<i>CE1. Participate in career and postsecondary institution exploration activities</i>	*	*	*	*
<i>CE4. Participate in college and career assessments</i>	*	*	*	*
<i>CE5. Complete the FAFSA</i>				*
<i>CE6. Submit at least one postsecondary education, training, or workplace application; participate in TNPromise program, if applicable</i>				*



High School and Beyond Plans

State Board Policy

- Middle School Policy 2.102 and High School Policy 2.103 include this information regarding a High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP):
 - Starting in the 2023-24 school year, all 8th grade students will develop a high school and beyond plan, reviewed and updated annually. School counselors will oversee the plan, which can be fulfilled by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Transition Plan for students with an IEP.
 - The plan will cover grades 8 through two years post-graduation, considering academic strengths, career assessments, and other indicators. It will include elective focuses, Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, and opportunities to build technical and employability skills.

Important Steps in HSBP



8

- Administer Career Aptitude Assessment.
- Expose student to opportunities at chosen high school.
- Draft initial HSBP Plan with student, parent, and other stakeholders.



9

- Administer Career Interest inventory.
- Update the HSBP as necessary.



10

- Revisit and revise with students to solidify elective focus, EPSOs, and WBL goals.
- Discuss alignment of courses with goals.



11

- Revisit and revise plan to extend to two years post-secondary.
- Add deadlines and important dates (FAFSA, College Apps, etc.).

Examples

- Schools are not required to follow a specific template when creating HSBPs.
- HSBPs do not need to be submitted to the department; however, plans should be a part of a student's cumulative record.

Knox Example

Class of 2028 2027 2026 **2025**

Search by counselor

Assignments

Students with Assignments

152
Complete

365
Incomplete

0
Overdue

Outstanding Assignments

Senior High School & Beyond Plan 34%
Complete TN Promise Application 27%
First generation college student 19%
Apply to at least 1 college, technical school, or job 15%
Update colleges you plan to apply to 13%

[View all assignments](#)

Documents & Applications

Applications

28 Sent → **44** To → **20**
Students Applications Colleges

Seniors Applied

7.7%
Applied (28) Not Applied (337)

Notification Center

0

Direct Messages

90

Notifications

0

Visit Requests

Upcoming Events

Sep 19 Thu College Visit
The University of Tennessee (Chattanooga) 2:00 PM

Sep 20 Fri College Visit
Washington University in St. Louis 8:30 AM

Sep 25 Wed College Visit
Appalachian State University 8:50 AM

Application Deadlines

Oct 15 Tue 1 Packet Outstanding

75

HELP

Knox Example

Chef Helt

Overview

Colleges & Applications

Awards

Messaging

Surveys

Custom Properties

Notes

Assignments

Assignments

Search by Assignment

Show archived tasks

Assign New Task

Title	Assigned To	Topic	Plan	Due Date	Completed Date	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete PrinciplesYou	Student	Self Discovery	Sophomore Checklist	05/01/2025	—	...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First Generation College Student	Student	College	Sophomore Checklist	05/01/2025	—	...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Save 3 colleges to your college list	Student	College	Sophomore Checklist	05/01/2025	—	...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Update your student activities	Student	Self Discovery	Sophomore Checklist	05/01/2025	—	...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High School & Beyond Plan Form Response	Student	Career	Sophomore Checklist	03/07/2025	09/18/2024	...

Bristol City Example

The screenshot shows a Google Sheet titled "BTCS HIGH SCHOOL & BEYOND PLAN" for "Student A". The sheet is organized into columns for 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th grades. The 8th grade column (pink) includes Career Exploration, Computer Science, and Career Interest in CSI. The 9th grade column (orange) lists English 1 Honors, Algebra 1 Part 1 & 2, Biology Honors, World History, Art 1, Wellness, Coding 1, and Personal Finance. The 10th grade column (green) lists English 2 Honors, Geometry, AP Psychology, Chemistry, Spanish 1 & 2, PE/Drivers Ed, and Coding 2. The 11th grade column (blue) lists English 3 Honors, Pre-Colc, DE US History 1, Weightlifting, Health Science, Anatomy & Physiology, ACT Prep, and Elective. At the bottom, there are rows for Post-Secondary Plan (2 Year College) and Circumstances.

8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade
Career Exploration	English 1 Honors	English 2 Honors	English 3 Honors
Computer Science	Algebra 1 Part 1	Geometry	Pre-Colc
	Algebra 1 Part 2	AP Psychology	DE US History 1
	Biology Honors	Chemistry	Weightlifting
	World History	Spanish 1	Health Science
	Art 1	Spanish 2	Anatomy & Physiology
	Wellness	PE/Drivers Ed	ACT Prep
	Coding 1	Coding 2	Elective
	Personal Finance		
Career Interest CSI	Career Interest Computer Science or Medical Field	Career Interest	Career Interest
Post-Secondary Plan 2 Year College	Post-Secondary Plan 2 Year College	Post-Secondary Plan	Post-Secondary Plan
Circumstances	Circumstances	Circumstances	Circumstances

Bristol City Example 2

The screenshot shows a Google Sheet titled "TENNESSEE HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT CHECK" for student Brittany Stogler, Grad Year 2028. The sheet is organized into columns for different subject areas, each with a list of courses and a dropdown menu for credit status (IP, C, or blank). A yellow circle highlights the "Algebra 1" dropdown menu.

Subject Area	Course	Credit Status
English	English 9 Honors	IP
	English 10	
	English 11	
	English 12	
Math	Algebra 1	IP
	Geometry	
	Algebra 2	
Science	Biology Honors	IP
	Chem/Physics	
	Lab Science	
Social Studies	World History	IP
	US History	
	Gov.	
Wellness/PE	Wellness	IP
	Driver's Ed/PE	
	World Language	WL 1
WL 2		
Fine Art	Art I	IP
Additional Credits	Pers. Finance	IP
	Comp. Science	

At the bottom, there is a "Program of Study" section with "Computer Science" (C) and "Coding 1" (C) selected. A "Waivers Needed" dropdown menu is also present with a "Link Waiver Here" option.

Feedback and Share-out

- What are you doing in your district to create HSBP?
- What supports do you need from the Tennessee Department of Education (department) to help you successfully implement the HSBP Legislation?



Graduation Requirement Updates

Graduation Requirements

- Still 22 Credits
- Computer Science requirement (can be a substitute for a math or science credit)
- Computer Science Endorsement Pathway for teachers - Spring 2025 registration is open!
- **[SBE Rules 0520-01-03-.06](#)**:
 - Math four (4) credits can be taken in three (3) years
 - Required to take math three (3) of the four (4) years in high school



Early Postsecondary Opportunities

Early Postsecondary Opportunities

- ***Early postsecondary opportunities allow students to:***
 - earn postsecondary credits while in high school,
 - become familiar with postsecondary expectations,
 - develop confidence and skills for success in postsecondary education,
 - make informed postsecondary education and career decisions, and
 - decrease the time and cost of completing a certificate or degree.

POP QUIZ!

- How many EPSOs does the State recognize?

✓ EIGHT

✓ Bonus... can anyone name them?

✓ Advanced Placement (AP), Cambridge International, International Baccalaureate, Statewide Dual Credit, Local Dual Credit, Dual Enrollment, College Level Exam Program (CLEP), and Industry Certifications

POP QUIZ!

- True or false: EPSOs only benefit students if they pass the associated challenge exam and earn college credit.

- False: Participation in EPSOs helps develop confidence and study skills necessary for success in postsecondary coursework. Research shows that students who participate in EPSOs are more likely to enroll and persist in college.

State Recognized EPSOs

TN Department of Education	AP Advanced Placement	CIE Cambridge	CLEP College Level Exam Program	DE Dual Enrollment	IB International Baccalaureate	LDC Local Dual Credit	SDC Statewide Dual Credit	IC Industry Certification
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> College-level high school courses offered in multiple subjects Nationally recognized exams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High school academic programs Internationally recognized exams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nationally recognized exams used to assess college-level knowledge Exams offered in multiple subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postsecondary (PS) course taught at the PS institution, high school, or online Student enrolled in the PS institution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academically challenging course of study offered at the high school level Internationally recognized exams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High school course aligned to standards at local postsecondary (PS) institution Optional exam for credit at local PS institution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High school course aligned to statewide postsecondary (PS) standards Required challenge exam for PS credit at TN institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment by an independent certifying entity based on standards for knowledge, skills, and competencies
Structure	Course and Exam	Course and Exam	Exam	Course	Course and Exam	Course and Exam	Course and Exam	Exam
Provider	The College Board	Cambridge International Examinations	The College Board	Individual TN PS Institutions	International Baccalaureate Organization	Individual TN PS Institutions	Tennessee Department of Education	Industry
Student Fees and Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam fees College Board and state assistance for low-income students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam fees State assistance for low-income students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course tuition, fees, books Dual Enrollment Grant (a lottery scholarship) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam fees State assistance for low-income students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cost to students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam fees
High School Credit and Graduation Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP courses meet graduation requirements and/or elective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambridge courses meet graduation requirements and/or elective credit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLEP is not a course and does not meet high school graduation requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District sets policy on awarding high school credit and graduation requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IB courses meet graduation requirements and/or elective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDC course fulfills the same requirements as aligned high school course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDC course fulfills the same requirements as aligned high school course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IC is a program of study and does not meet graduation requirements
High School Recognition State Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualifies for graduation with state distinction Qualifies for GPA weighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualifies for graduation with state distinction Qualifies for GPA weighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLEP is not a course and does not meet high school graduation requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualifies for graduation with state distinction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualifies for graduation with state distinction Qualifies for GPA weighting 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualifies for GPA weighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualifies for graduation with state distinction
Postsecondary Credit Determinant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score on AP exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade in Cambridge AS or A level subject 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score on CLEP exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dual enrollment course completion Passing grade as assigned by PS instructor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score on IB SL or HL exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score on challenge exam at or above the established cut score 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score on challenge exam at or above the established cut score 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score on industry certification exam
Postsecondary Credit Awarded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined by postsecondary institutions Awarded upon matriculation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined by postsecondary institutions Awarded upon matriculation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined by postsecondary institutions Awarded upon matriculation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Credit awarded on PS transcript upon course completion Credit can be transferred to other PS institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined by postsecondary institutions Awarded upon matriculation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Credit accepted at the partnering PS institution Students should notify registrar upon matriculation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Credit accepted at all TN PS institutions Students should notify registrar upon matriculation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined by postsecondary institutions

EARLY POSTSECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES IN TENNESSEE

Early Postsecondary Opportunities

- EPSO participants in Tennessee earn an average of 23 college credits by the time they graduate from high school.
- Majority of local education agencies (LEAs) offer over 175 DE courses to their students.
- In 2023-2024, DE reached a total enrollment of nearly 37,000.
- In the 2022-2023 academic year, 35,858 AP exams were administered across the state and 58 percent of students scored a three (3) or higher on at least one AP exam.

Early Postsecondary Opportunities

- In the 2022-2023 academic year, nearly 36,000 free exams were administered and SDC college credits earned contributing an estimated value of \$2,600,815.50 to Tennessee tuition value.
- In the 2022-2023 academic year, 10 LEAs participated in IB and the number of economically disadvantaged students taking an IB exam increased by 53 percent.
- In the 2022-2023 academic year, 65 percent of CIE candidates had at least one passing grade on their exams and the number of economically disadvantaged students taking a CIE exam increased by 53 percent.

Early Postsecondary Opportunities- Resources and Supports

- AP Access for ALL is FREE
- SDC is FREE
- DE Grants (up to 5 free courses or 1,296 Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) clock hours)
- Economically Disadvantaged Fee Waivers are available for AP Exams, Cambridge International, and International Baccalaureate



Work-Based Learning Opportunities

Work Based Learning (WBL)

- WBL offers students a range of workplace experiences, including in-person, virtual, and simulated opportunities. It starts with career awareness and then moves to career exploration, preparation, and on-the-job training. Career navigation and advising services outlined in HSBPs should support and personalize these experiences for students.

Flagship Industry Partner Recognition

- The employers are nominated by school districts for significantly improving student outcomes through WBL programs.
- Nomination criteria include seamless transitions to postsecondary education/workforce, full-time employment opportunities, and programs for students with disabilities.
- Selection based on impact on students through employment readiness activities like pre-apprenticeships and registered apprenticeships.
- These Flagship Industry Partners are recognized by the state at the annual CTE Institute.

Career Coaching Supports

Current Support

- CTE Core hosted Career Coach training in the Fall
- Developing a network to share resources
- High School and Beyond FAQs will be published soon
- List of approved Career Assessments posted on the website



Your Turn!

- How can we support your work as Career Coaches?
- What obstacles are you facing?
- What bright spots can you share?





Thank You!

- Dr. Chelsea Rose, Senior Director, College and Career Readiness: Chelsea.Rose@tn.gov
- Amanda McClusky, Senior Manager, College and Career Readiness: Amanda.McClusky@tn.gov
- Jaime Grammer, School Counseling Manager: Jaime.Grammer@tn.gov

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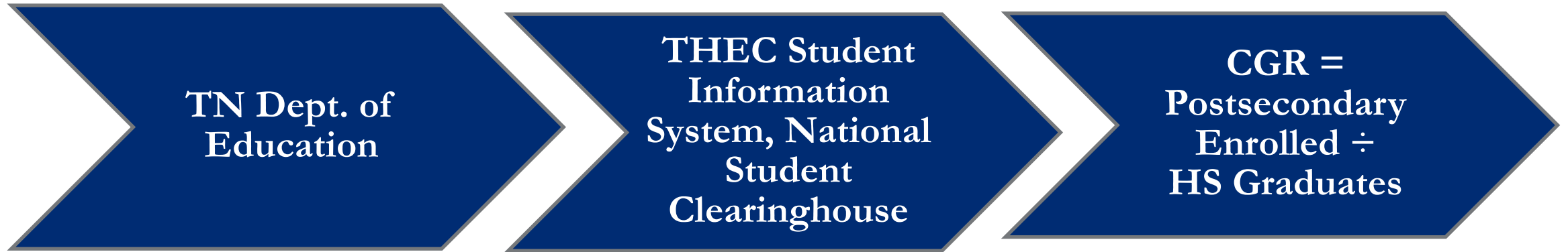
The College & Career Advising Landscape in Tennessee



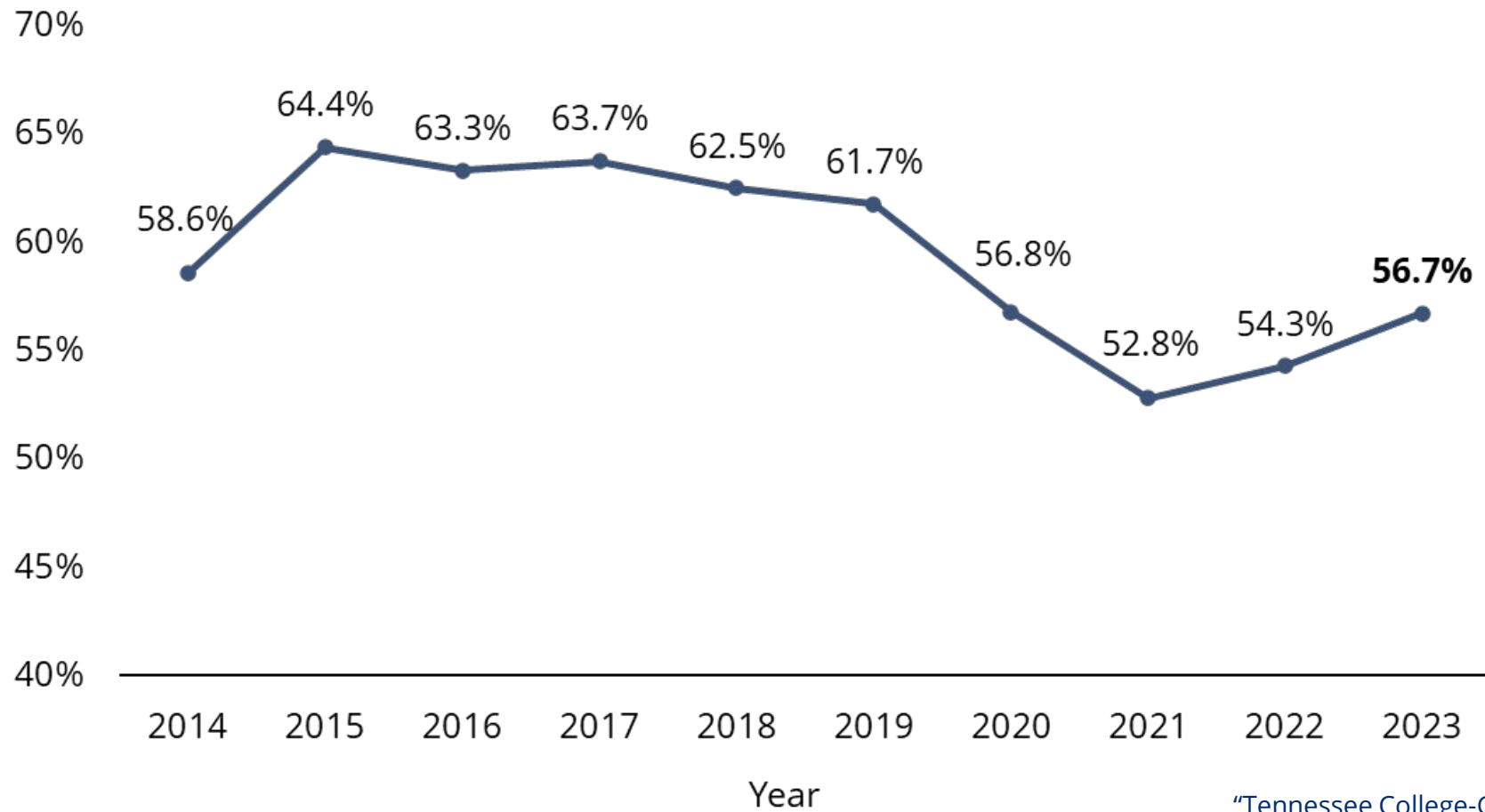
CGR Detailed Definition

The **college-going rate (CGR)** represents the percent of public high school students in the Tennessee Department of Education's (TDOE) **ninth grade cohort** who earn a **regular high school diploma** in their **senior year** and **enroll at a postsecondary institution** the following summer or fall term after graduating high school.

CGR Data Sources

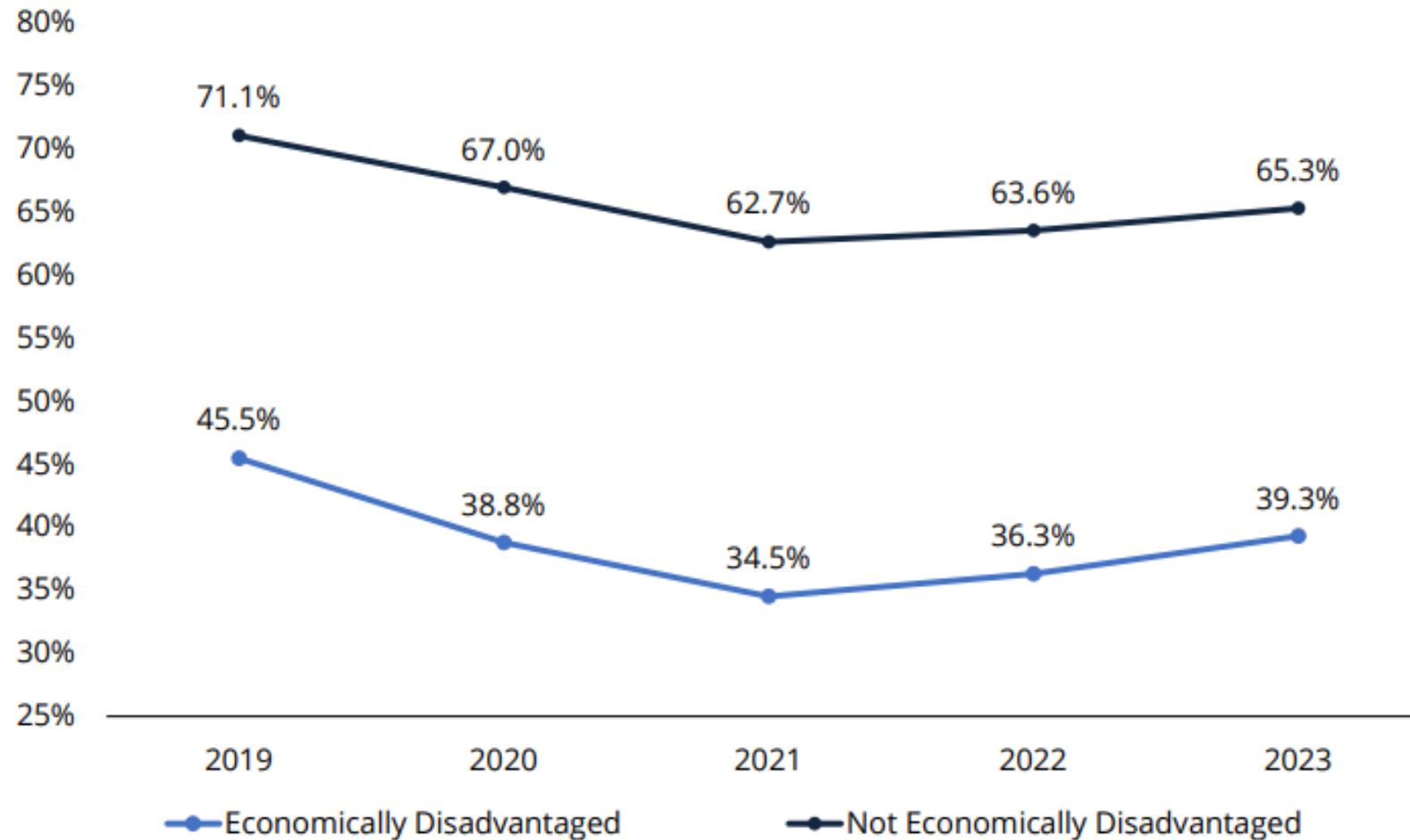


Tennessee's College-Going Rate (CGR)

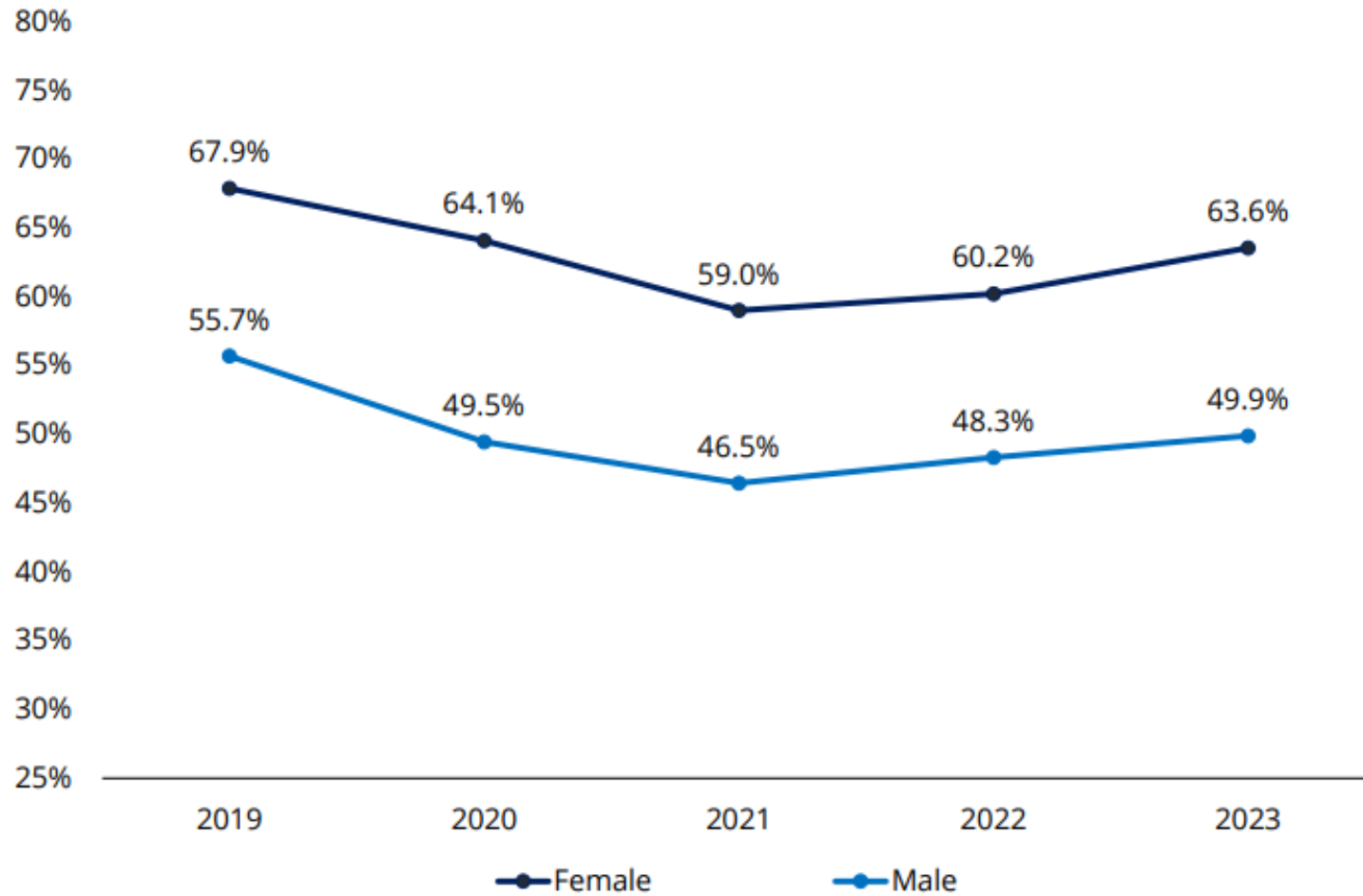


"Tennessee College-Going & The Class of 2023"
Tennessee Higher Education Commission

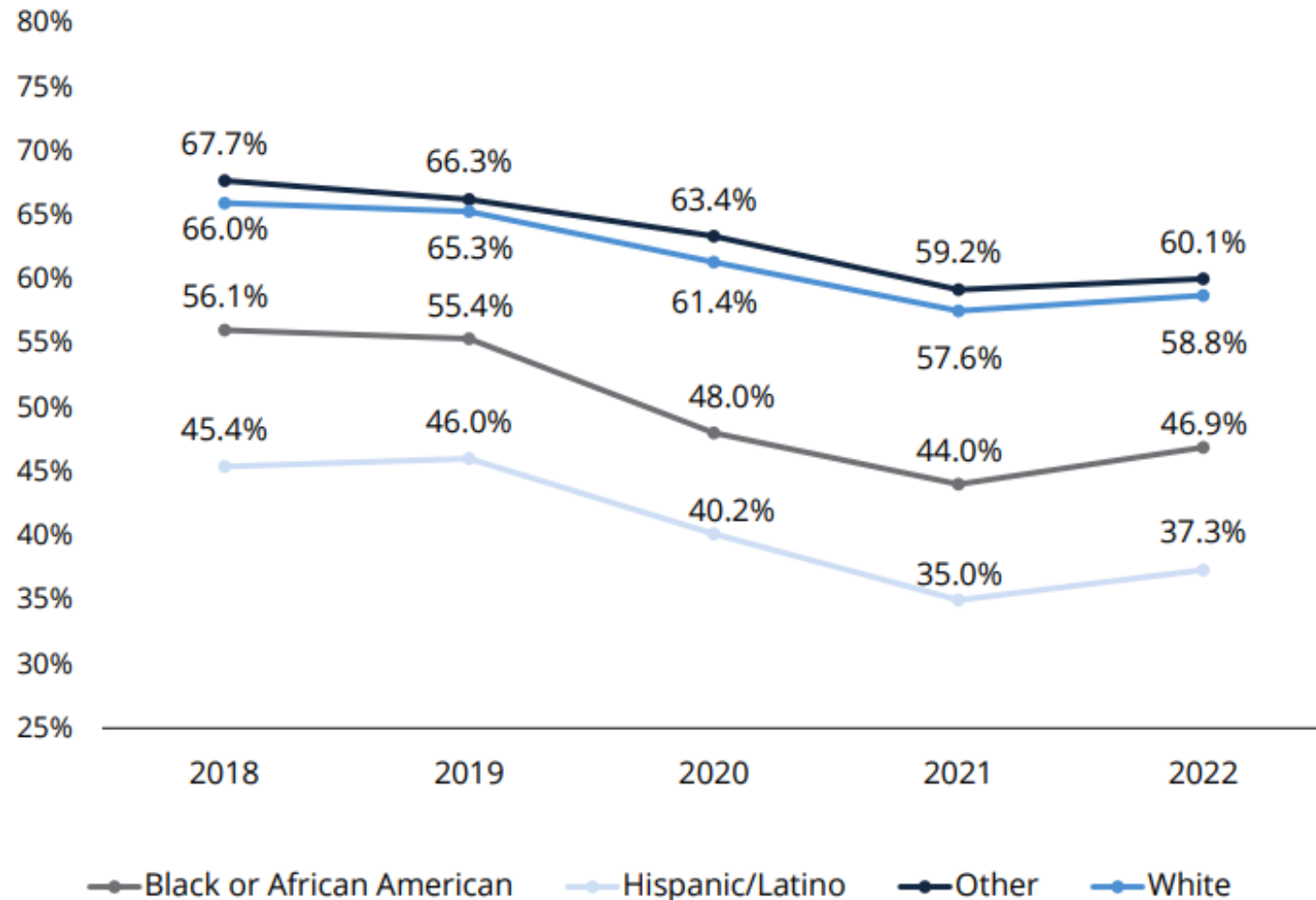
College-Going Rates by Economically Disadvantaged Status



College-Going Rates by Gender



College-Going Rate Disparities by Race




Resources Available Online

- Annual College-Going Reports
- Dashboard with College Enrollment Trends and Grad Rates (Fact Book)
- Enrollment heatmap coming soon
- Data Downloads with College-Going Rates by High School

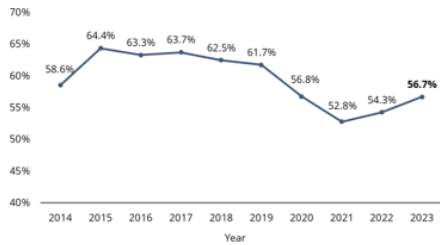


College-Going Rate Data Download


HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE-GOING RATES

College-Going Rates
Each year, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) produces the college-going rate for the recent public high school graduating class as part of an annual report, [College-Going and the Class of 2023](#). Tennessee's college-going rate for the Class of 2023 was 56.7% percent, up 2.4 percentage points over the prior year.

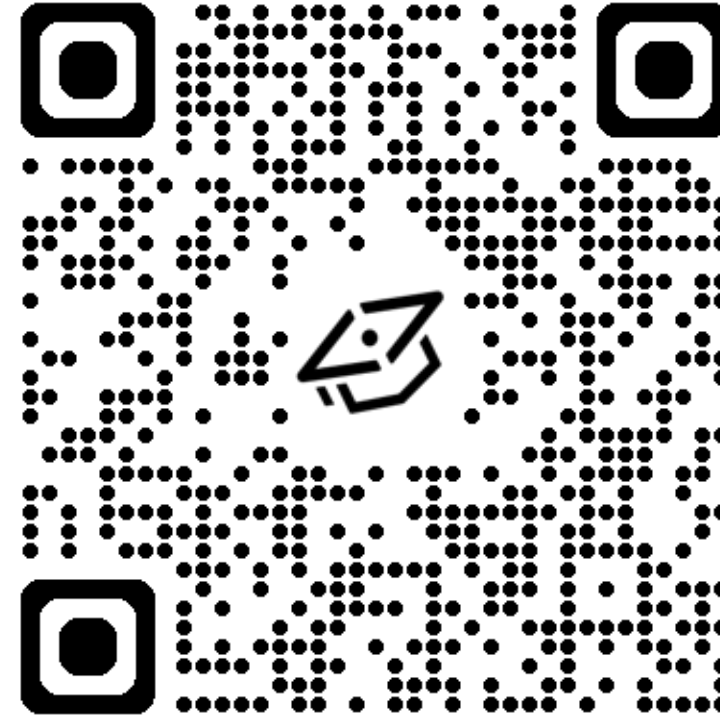
State of Tennessee College-Going Rates



HS Class	HS Grads	PS Enrollees	CGR
2017			
2018			
2019			
2020			
2021			
2022			
2023			

* THEC complies with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requirements to protect students' personally identifiable information. Therefore, values with fewer than 10 students are suppressed using a single asterisk (*). To prevent determination of suppressed values, additional student groups may also be suppressed.

Definitions:
 HS Grads: the number of high school graduates with a regular diploma in TDOE's 9th grade cohort.
 PS Enrollees: the number of high school graduates enrolled at a postsecondary institution by the fall following graduation.
 CGR: The portion of high school graduates who enroll in a postsecondary institution by the fall following graduation.



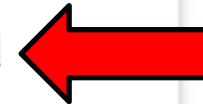
CGR Data Downloads



Data Downloads

The downloads below include data through the Class of 2022 and were updated 8/24/2023. For questions about these data, please contact us at thec.research@tn.gov.

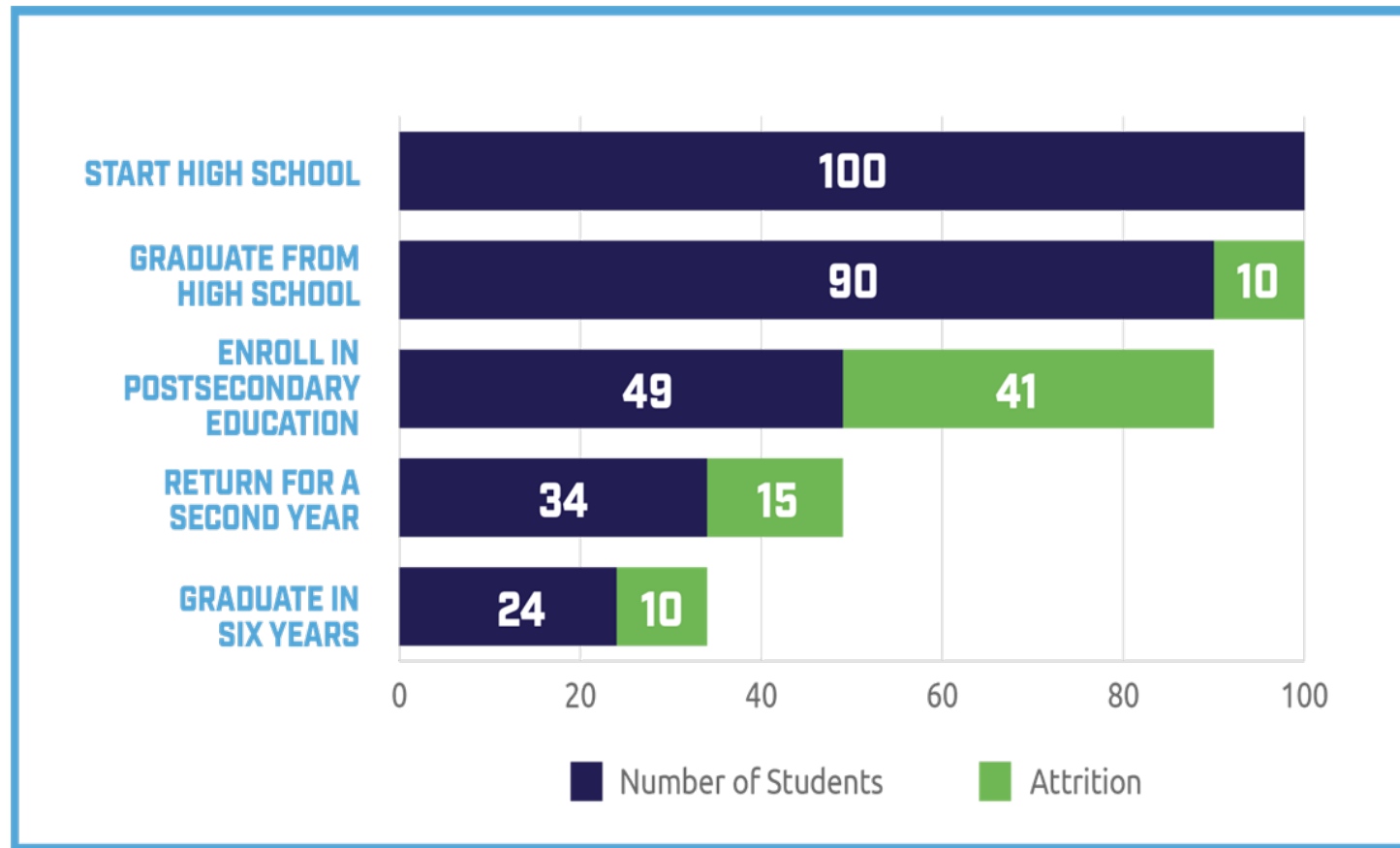
- [College-Going Rate by High School and Demographics](#)
- [Postsecondary Enrollment Details by High School](#)
- [Statewide Postsecondary Enrollment with Demographics](#)



Take 5 Minutes to Find Your High School's CGR

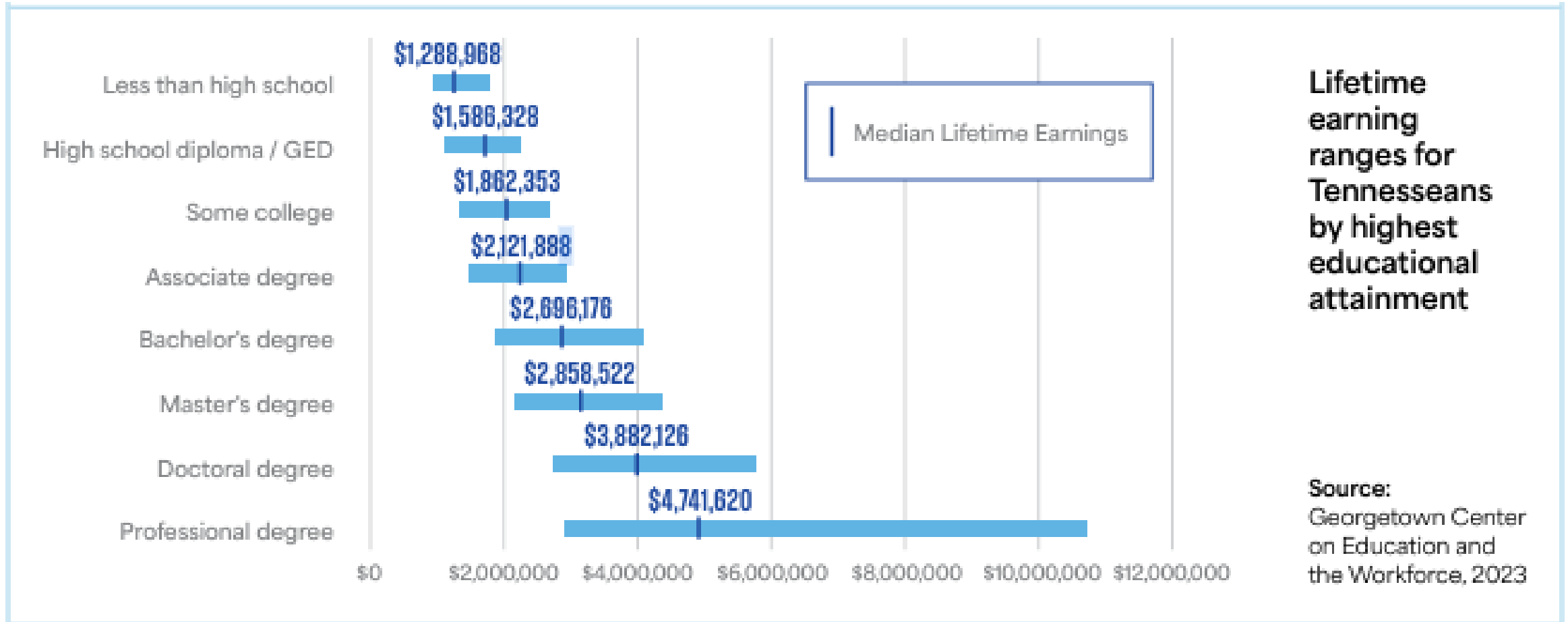


Only 1 in 4 Tennessee High School Students Successfully Navigate The Education-To-Work Pipeline

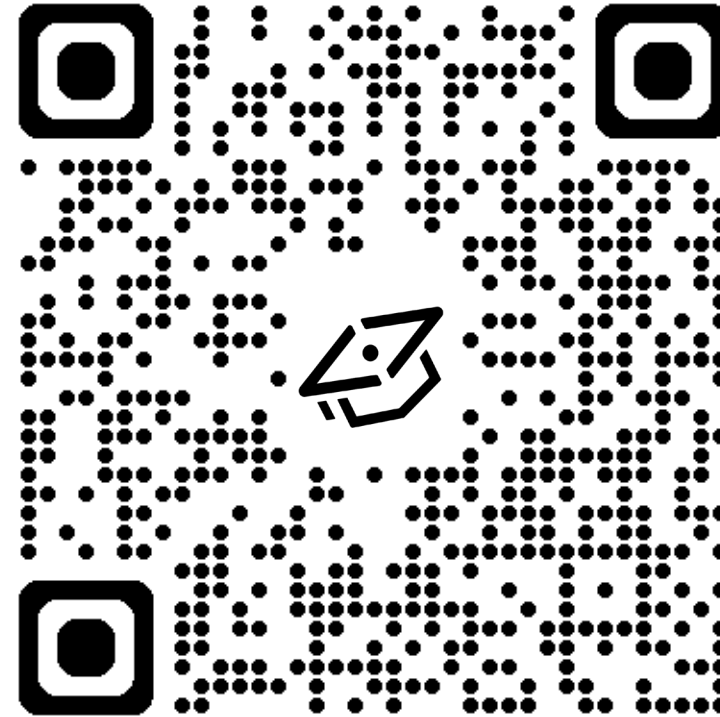
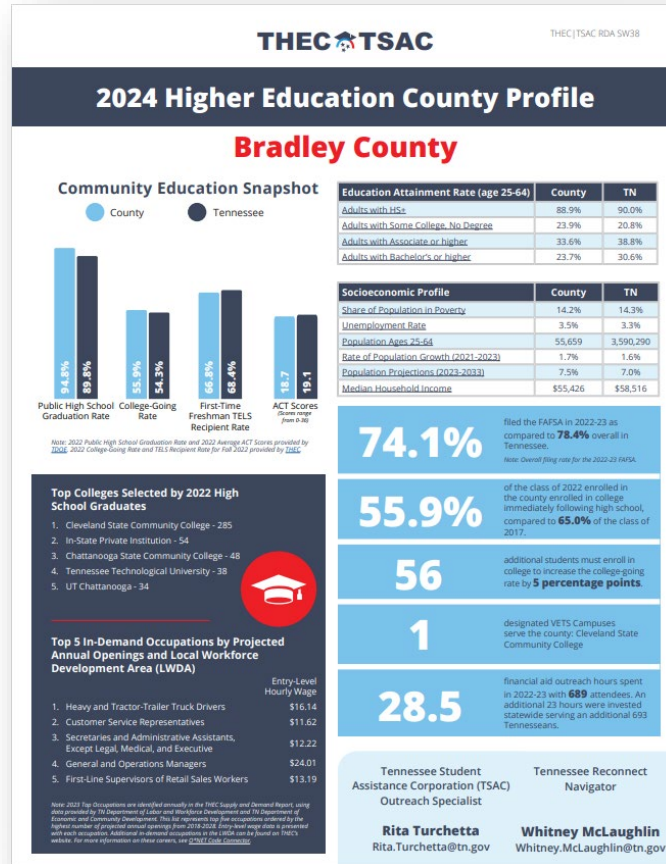


Source: 2023 SCORE Annual Report

Is a College Degree Worth the Investment in TN?

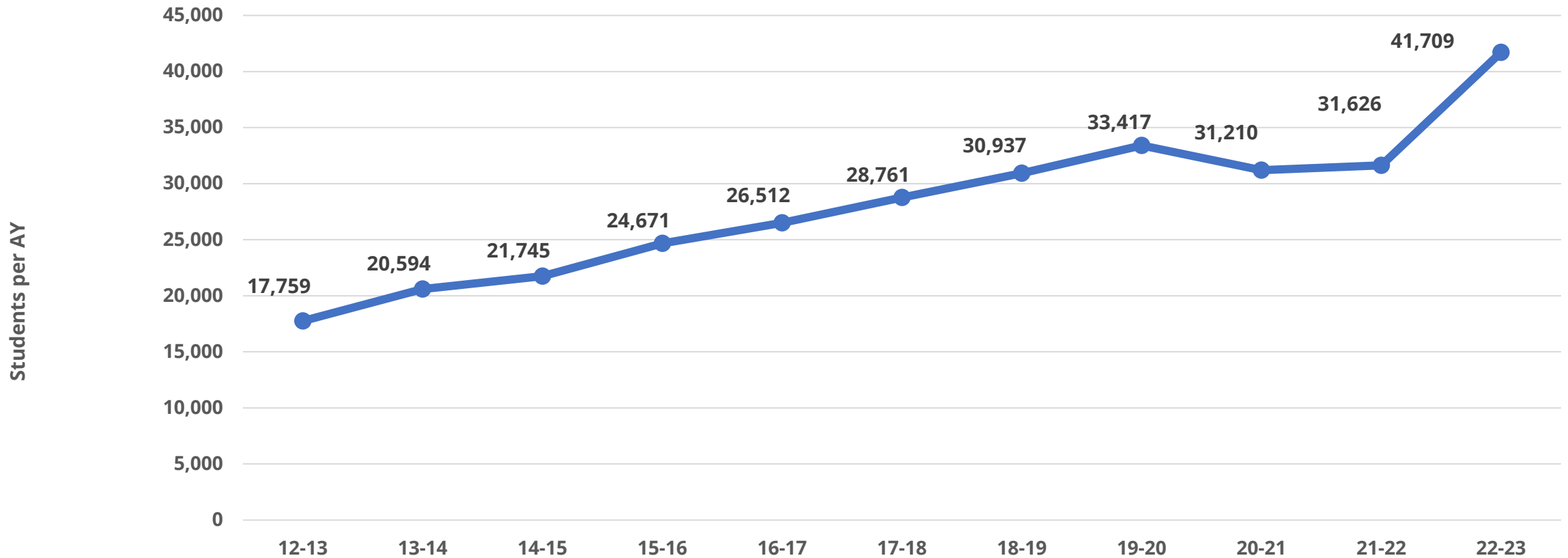


County Profiles



[County Profiles \(tn.gov\)](https://www.tn.gov/theac)

Dual Enrollment Grant (DEG) Participation Increasing



Source: TELS Report

Dual Enrollment Grants and College-Going

HS Graduating Class	Dual Enrollment Grantees (as % of cohort)	DEG College-Going Rate	Full Cohort College-Going Rate
2021	17,490 (28.1%)	78.1%	52.8%
2022	17,676 (28.0%)	78.4%	54.3%
2023	19,191 (30.0%)	78.8%	56.7%

CollegeForTN.org

THE TENNESSEE PROMISE APPLICATION IS OPEN NOW THROUGH NOVEMBER 1. APPLY TODAY!

COLLEGE FOR TN

Career Planning College Planning Financial Aid School Resources **TSAC Student Portal**

HOW WILL I PAY FOR COLLEGE?

There is money available to help you pay for college. Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the first step on the path to federal and state aid. Learn how to complete the FAFSA at the link below.

[Complete The FAFSA!](#)

WE HELP STUDENTS SUCCEED

We're a free one-stop resource for college and career information in the state of Tennessee. With students in mind, we inventory students' interests, values, and skills and then navigate each student through career and college pathways.

Match Game

TN College Mascot Matchup

Match each public university with their mascot by placing the mascot number on the line next to the school location.

Austin Peay State University

Clarksville, TN _____

East Tennessee State University

Johnson City, TN _____

Middle Tennessee State University

Murfreesboro, TN _____

Tennessee State University

Nashville, TN _____

Tennessee Tech University

Cookeville, TN _____

University of Memphis

Memphis, TN _____

University of Tennessee

Knoxville, TN _____

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Chattanooga, TN _____

University of Tennessee Martin

Martin, TN _____

University of Tennessee Southern

Pulaski, TN _____

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



[TN College and Career Planning Nights](#)

Match Game Answer Key

Answer Key:
TN College Mascot Matchup

Match each public university with their mascot by placing the mascot number on the line next to the school location.

Austin Peay State University Clarksville, TN <u>7 (The Governor)</u>	1 
East Tennessee State University Johnson City, TN <u>2 (Bucky)</u>	2 
Middle Tennessee State University Murfreesboro, TN <u>9 (Lightning)</u>	3 
Tennessee State University Nashville, TN <u>5 (Aristocat)</u>	4 
Tennessee Tech University Cookeville, TN <u>1 (Awesome Eagle)</u>	5 
University of Memphis Memphis, TN <u>8 (Pouncer)</u>	6 
University of Tennessee Knoxville, TN <u>10 (Smokey)</u>	7 
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Chattanooga, TN <u>3 (Scrappy)</u>	8 
University of Tennessee Martin Martin, TN <u>4 (Captain Skyhawk)</u>	9 
University of Tennessee Southern Pulaski, TN <u>6 (Flame)</u>	10 

[TN College and Career Planning Nights](#)



**COLLEGE ACCESS
BEST PRACTICES**

Typical College Access Services

- Career Exploration
- Dreams and Goal Setting
- Student Assessment- Skills, Interest, and Aptitude
- College Exploration
- Advising
- Soft Skills
- Test Taking
- Campus Visits
- Financial Aid
- Family Engagement
- Summer Melt

Career Exploration Questions



- What types of things do you enjoy doing and what do you enjoy about it?
- What types of things are you good at doing?
- What are some of the careers to which those skills, gifts, and interests can lead?
- What is the expected growth for those careers where you plan to live?
- What are the average starting and median salaries for those careers?
- What is the education and training required for those careers?
- What can you do during high school to get some exposure to those careers?

Career Exposure During High School



- Career and Technical Education Courses
- Dual Enrollment and other EPSOs
- College Fairs/Career Fairs
- Job Shadowing/Work Based Learning
- Internships/Apprenticeships
- Campus Visits/Job Site Visits
- Career Speakers/Mentoring

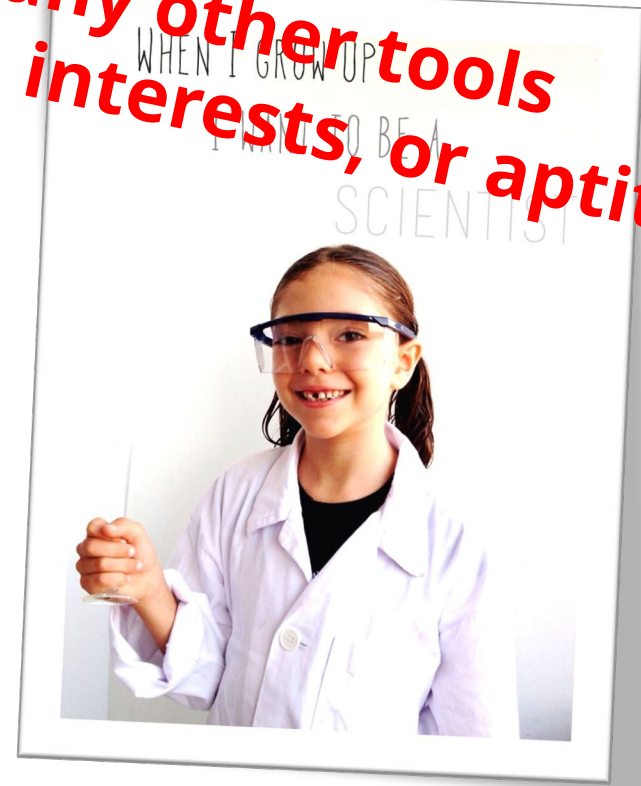
How have you exposed students to different careers?



Skills, Interests, and Aptitude

- [College for TN - Your Resource for College and Career Information](#)
- [Next Guides - collegefortn.org](#)
- [HOME | ASVAB \(officialasvab.com\)](#)
- [Career Guidance for Students using Aptitudes | YouScience](#)
- [Strong Interest Inventory \(STRONG®\) | The Myers-Briggs Company \(themyersbriggs.com\)](#)
- [O*NET Interest Profiler at My Next Move](#)
- [Exploring Careers \(tn.gov\)](#)

Have you used any other tools to assess skills, interests, or aptitude?



Campus Visits



Phases of the Campus Visit

- Planning
 - Where, when, who, purpose, transportation, permission forms, food, etc.
- College Exploration
 - CollegeForTN.org
 - Big Future
 - College Fairs
 - Talk to former and current students
 - College Fit
- On the way to the Campus
 - Prepare students (Ask questions, take notes, stay with your group, be respectful, etc.)
- During the Campus Visit
 - Areas to visit, encourage discussions, lunch, clubs, organizations, sports, STEM, fine arts, wrap up activity
- After the Visit
 - Thank you, follow-up discussions, next steps

Campus Visit Best Practices



- ✓ Start by defining your purpose for the trip.
- ✓ Prepare students for the visit.
- ✓ Include teachers and school staff on your campus visit.
- ✓ Use high school alumni at the campus for tours and small group discussions.
- ✓ Build students' self efficacy while on the campus tour.
- ✓ Develop students' career interests on the tour and align those with college majors.
- ✓ Eat on campus. See the dorms. Visit the wellness center and sports facilities.
- ✓ This will help them realize that college is an option for them, they are college material, and it will be worth it.

What are your experiences with campus visits?



What is College Fit?

Fit is based on personal preferences

- Size of school (small, medium, large)
- Major and academic program
- Location
- Athletics
- Student Body



Selecting
a **College
Major**



What's Most Important to Students?

<p>Type of School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 year or 4 year • Public or private • University/research institution or liberal arts college • All male, all female, or coed • Religious or secular 	<p>Student Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On and off campus activities • Athletics • Greek life • Student organizations • Safety • Student body diversity 	<p>Location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban or rural • Size of nearest city • Distance from home • Geographic setting and weather
<p>Affordability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of Attendance (tuition, fees, transportation, housing) • Scholarships • Campus employment opportunities 	<p>Admission Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum GPA • Average test scores • Required high school courses • Likelihood of being accepted 	<p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residence halls • On/off campus housing • Meal plan • Parking for residents and for commuters
<p>Academics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs and majors offered • Student-faculty ratio • Accreditation 	<p>Size</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical enrollment • Average class size • Physical size of campus 	<p>Other criteria important to you</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •

Source: NEXT Guides

College Fit from the Students' Perspective

[My Next Chapter Pt. 5 "What advice would you give a high school student when picking a college?" \(youtube.com\)](#)



Communicating with Families

- Families respond better when they are engaged with early and often.
- Take inventory of what communication options are available through your school. What is going to be the best way to reach your audience?
- Determine the desired outcome of your communications. Is it to share information? Is there an action that you want the recipient to take?



[Next Guides - collegefortn.org](http://collegefortn.org)

Family Event Planning Considerations



- Does the school generally have a better response from parents/guardians at daytime or evening events?
- Is there a large population of non-English speakers? Will events require translators?
- Can food or some other incentive for attendance be provided?

Key Soft Skills for Students



Why Soft Skills Matter

- Importance in college and career readiness
- Surveys show employer demand for soft skills
- Impact on academic performance and relationships
- Socially, these skills allow students to form stronger relationships, resolve conflicts, and contribute positively to group settings, building a supportive network of peers and mentors
- Help students articulate their thoughts, ask for help, and engage meaningfully in discussions



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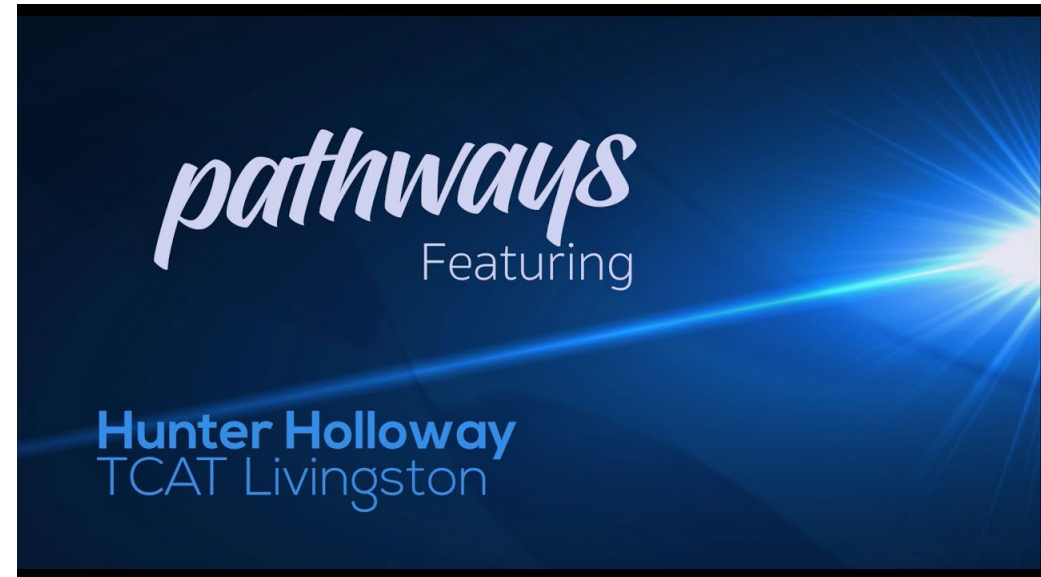
COLLEGE
ADVISING

What are some ways that you can use data in your advising?

- Grades
- ACT Scores
- FAFSA Reports
- TN Promise Reports
- FAST
- Absences
- Dual Enrollment
- County Profiles
- PSI Retention and Graduation Reports
- THEC FACT Book

My Next Chapter Videos

- My Next Chapter Video Playlist: <https://youtu.be/z0i1SVFv49w?si=Dttxtd5j3B1IErUeF>
- Pathways Video Playlist: https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGvsY5H5p0jZYimIX_vTOGBB-gdmaSXqd&si=HmGix4BwRIkbNfxG



What Questions Could You Ask?

A student who is on the verge of failing their classes and has an ACT score of 14 explains to you that their first college choice is Vanderbilt. If they HAVE to, they would also be willing to go to UTK, but they would really prefer Vanderbilt because it's such a good school.

What Questions Could You Ask?

How would you advise a first-generation college-student from a low-income family who has a 21 ACT and 3.4 GPA and wants to attend a regional 4-year institution that will cost them approximately \$20,000 per year out-of-pocket after scholarships and grants? The student wants to have a real on-campus student experience in college and major in history while trying to decide their career goals.

College Admissions Game

College Admission Game

Time: With discussion, 30-45 min. **Materials:** Profile cards, prizes

Directions: Use this activity to demonstrate to students specific characteristics that give one applicant an advantage over another in the college admissions process.

1. Ask eight volunteers to play. Hand each player a "student profile card" and have them line up in order of GPA from highest to lowest. They should hold up the card with the GPA side facing the audience.
2. Ask the audience and the players to make predictions about which students would seem the most desirable to college admissions based on what they see (GPA only).
3. Then, read the following instructions:

- If you have taken an exceptionally strong academic program, move up two spaces.
 - If you served in student government, move up one space.
 - If you clearly stated that this college is your first choice by making an early decision application and commitment, move up two spaces.
 - If you have job shadowed someone in your desired career field or intended major, move up one space.
 - If you have not done any college and career research, move back one space.
 - If you do not know any of your teachers well enough to feel comfortable asking for a recommendation, move back two spaces.
 - If, when you typed your college essay, you forgot to change the name of the college you were applying to, move back three spaces.
 - If you did not write the optional college essay, move back one space.
 - If the topic of your college essay was sports as a metaphor for life, move back one space.
 - If you wrote the "Essay of the Year," the one that was passed around the admissions office, move up two spaces.
 - If you plagiarized an American history paper and were caught, sit down—you are out of the competition entirely.
 - If you will be the first in your family to attend college, move up two spaces.
 - If you attended an enriching summer program between your junior and senior years, move up two spaces.
 - If you participated in NO extracurricular activities, move back three spaces.
 - If you participated in a significant community service project, move up one space.
 - If you worked at an organization like Junior Achievement, Scouts, Honor Society, etc., move up two spaces.
 - If you are a varsity athlete, move up one space. If you are all-region in a sport, move up another space. • If you took an advanced academic course at the end of your junior year, move back three spaces.
 - If you explained to the college admission officer and explained the extenuating circumstances surrounding a low grade, move up one space.
 - If you tried to protect your GPA by not taking AP classes offered at your school, move back two spaces.
 - If you are from a single-parent household and must work part-time to help with expenses, move up two spaces.
 - If your last name is Kennedy, and the name on the college library is Kennedy, and it is not a coincidence, move all the way to the front of the line and stay there.
- At the end of the game, have students discuss why some attributes advanced students forward and why some moved backward. What does this mean for college admissions? How can students create the strongest application?



Student Profiles: Print out this page. Cut and fold the paper so that the front side of paper displays the GPA and student profile is on the back. Select eight players and hand each one a player profile card. Enlarge if needed.

4.1 GPA	• You took a strong academic program. • You forgot to change the name of the college when typing the essay that was sent to several different schools.
4.0 GPA	• You attended an enriching summer program between your junior and senior years. • You decided not to take AP classes (even though your school offered them) because you wanted to protect your GPA.
3.7 GPA	• The topic of your essay was sports (as a metaphor for life). • You are a Scout. • You are all-region in basketball.
3.5 GPA	• You job shadowed someone in your intended field or major. • You participated in NO extracurricular activities. • You attended an enriching summer program between 11th and 12th grade.
3.3 GPA	• You applied for early decision to your first-choice college. • You have not done any college and career research. • You plagiarized an American history paper and were caught.
3.1 GPA	• Your intended major is psychology or pre-med. • You wrote an essay that was passed around the office because it was so good. • You are the first in your family to attend college. • You are a varsity athlete. • You made a "D" in your junior year but wrote to the college to explain extenuating circumstances. • You have taken a strong academic program.
2.9 GPA	• You served in student government. • You are quiet and do not know your teachers well enough to ask for a recommendation. • You have participated in community service. • You have taken a strong academic program. • You are from a single-parent household and must work to help with expenses.
2.8 GPA	• You did not write the optional essay for your college application. • You have participated in some community service. • Your last name is Kennedy, and the college library is named after your grandfather.

Answer Key

4.1 GPA	• You took a strong academic program. (+2) • You forgot to change the name of the college when typing the essay that was sent to several different schools. (-3)
4.0 GPA	• You attended an enriching summer program between your junior and senior years. (+2) • You decided not to take AP classes (even though your school offered them) because you wanted to protect your GPA. (-2)
3.7 GPA	• The topic of your essay was sports (as a metaphor for life). (-1) • You are a Scout. (+2) • You are all-region in basketball. (+1)
3.5 GPA	• You job shadowed someone in your intended field or major. (+1) • You participated in NO extracurricular activities. (-3) • You attended an enriching summer program between 11th and 12th grade. (+2)
3.3 GPA	• You applied for early decision to your first-choice college. (+2) • You have not done any college and career research. (-1) • You plagiarized an American history paper and were caught. • (Disqualification)
3.1 GPA	• Your intended major is psychology or pre-med. (-1) • You wrote an essay that was passed around the office because it was so good. (+2) • You are the first in your family to attend college. (+2) • You are a varsity athlete. (+1) • You made a "D" in your junior year but wrote to the college to explain extenuating circumstances. (+1) • You have taken a strong academic program. (+2)
2.9 GPA	• You served in student government. (+1) • You are quiet and do not know your teachers well enough to ask for a recommendation. (-2) • You have participated in community service. (+1) • You have taken a strong academic program. (+2) • You are from a single-parent household and must work to help with expenses. (+2)
2.8 GPA	• You are a leprechaun at the college to which you are applying. (+2) • You did not write the optional essay for your college application. (-1) • You have participated in some community service. (+1) • Your last name is Kennedy, and the college library is named after your grandfather. (Moves to the top).

Original Ranking Based on GPA: 4.1, 4.0, 3.7, 3.5, 3.3, 3.1, 2.9, 2.8

Final Ranking Based on Inclusive Profile: 2.8, 3.1, 2.9, 3.7, 4.0, 3.5, 4.1, 3.3

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What the FAFSA!?!?!?

2025-26 FAFSA

- ***Available December 1, 2024*** at studentaid.gov
 - Full launch functionality; beta testing now
 - 2023 income/tax info
- Create accounts ***3 days*** in advance of FAFSA
 - studentaid.gov; ***800-433-3243***
 - FSA support staff quadrupled to 1800+



FAFSA[®]

FORM

2025–26

Prototype

Last Updated on 9/3/2024



[Learn About This Prototype](#)

**Google FAFSA prototype
Code: prototype2526**

New Application

Select a test user to begin a new application

Raya Tran	DOB 5/5/2003	Launch This User
Alcina Tran	DOB 5/5/1973	Launch This User

In-Progress Application

Select an in-progress scenario to view

Alcina Tran Parent	Scenario Invited as a contributor and affirms (parent spouse or partner will be invited if the parent is married/remarried)	View This Scenario
-----------------------	--	------------------------------------

I am an eligible noncitizen

- U.S. permanent residents
- Individuals with an I-94 showing: Refugee, Asylee, Cuban-Haitian Entrant, or Parolee
- Victims of human trafficking (T-Visa)
- Battered immigrants and children



Departure Number: 000000000 00 OMB No. 1551-0111

194 Departure Record: Sample APR 20 2011 F-1 DIS

14. Family Name: S T U D E N T

15. First (Given) Name: I M A

16. Birth Date (Day/Mo/Yr): 0 1 0 1 1 7 0

17. Country of Citizenship: A N I Y I C O U N T R I Y

CBP Form I-94 (10/06) See Other Side STAPLE HERE

Departure Number: 813106636 11

Department of Homeland Security CBP I-94A (11/04) Departure Record: L1 12345 09/17/2007

Family Name: SAMPLE

First (Given) Name: AHMET

Country of Citizenship: PAKISTAN

20041122 US-VISIT 20050207 MULTIPLE

CBP Form I-94 (10/06) See Other Side STAPLE HERE

Education Trust Resources



Identity Confirmation Process



Dear Jason,

Your StudentAid.gov account was created, but you still need to verify your identity. **While you are in the process of verifying your identity, you can log in and complete a *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* form.**

To verify your identity, you must complete a verification process for users without a Social Security number (SSN). We have assigned you an identity verification case number: MANVER0 [REDACTED]

In order for your case to be received and processed, you **must** forward this email to IDVerification@ed.gov and attach a copy of the required documents from the lists below **and** a signed attestation

- Not required in 2025-26, but a notified parent should try to complete, *if able*
- Notification via email
 - MANVER#
 - Attestation form
 - Acceptable documentation

Who is NOT a FAFSA parent*?

- Grandparent
- Aunt/Uncle
- Brother/Sister
- Legal Guardian
- Relative whom claimed the student for tax purposes

*Unless they have adopted the student



Who counts as a parent on the FAFSA® form?

A student may need to ask their parent(s) to provide information on their FAFSA form based on the student's **dependency status**.

This tool helps determine which parent(s) should participate in a student's **FAFSA form**.



To begin using the tool, enter the first name of the student's legal parent(s).

This helps us provide clear direction on which parent(s) should participate in the student's FAFSA form.

Who is considered a legal parent?

First Name (Parent 1)

First Name (Parent 2)

The student has only one legal parent.



Are John and Jane married to each other (not separated)?

Yes

No

Do John and Jane live together?

Yes

No

Which parent has provided more financial support for the student over the past 12 months?

If both parents provided an exact equal amount of financial support or if neither supports the student financially, select the parent with the greater income and assets.

John

Jane

Did John remarry?

Yes

No

The Student's FAFSA® Parents



John is a parent on the FAFSA® form.



John's spouse's information is needed on the FAFSA® form.



Promise/FAFSA Report

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `egrands.tsac.tn.gov/fast/Reports/Index`. The page title is "TSAC FAST: Reports". The navigation bar includes a "TN" logo, "Logout", "Reports" (highlighted with a red box and labeled "1"), "Verification", "Update GPA and Test Scores", "Administration", "Send Email", and "Help". A red callout box points to the "Reports" link and contains the text "fast.tn.gov". Below the navigation bar, the "Reports" section is active, and the "Activity" dropdown menu is set to "High School" (highlighted with a red box and labeled "2"). The list of reports includes "Eligible Students by High School Report", "High School Totals Report", "Ineligible Students by High School Report", "FAFSA by High School - ACT Record", and "Tennessee Promise Report" (highlighted with a red box and labeled "3").

TSAC FAST: Reports

egrands.tsac.tn.gov/fast/Reports/Index

Apps Home | Federal Stu... TN Code Motor Vehicle Reco... ACT High School C...

TN Logout Reports 1 Verification Update GPA and Test Scores Administration Send Email Help

fast.tn.gov

Reports

Activity 2 High School

Eligible Students by High School Report
High School Totals Report
Ineligible Students by High School Report
FAFSA by High School - ACT Record
3 Tennessee Promise Report

Promise/FAFSA Report

TSAC FAST: Reports | Tennessee Promise Report

egrandts.tn.gov/Reports/ReportViewer.aspx?Group=NewReports&Name=Scholarship_AppStatusReportTNPromiseHS&DisplayName=Tennessee%20Promise%20Report

Home | Federal Stu... | TN Code | Motor Vehicle Recor... | ACT High School Co... | Bookings | UAT | Webex | Doc. Sol. Promo site | Adobe Sign | THEC and uAspire C... | FSA Training Center | All Bookmarks

Tennessee Promise Report

ACYear: 1

2 [View Report](#)

1 of 6 Find | Next 3 



State of Tennessee Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation Application Status Report Tennessee Promise Scholarship For ACYear: 2025-2026







HUNTERS LANE HIGH (431256)

First Name	Middle	Last Name	TNP App Date	FAFSA App Date	FAFSA Completion	Meeting	Community Service	Verification	FAFSA College
Isaac	M	Acevedo	09/18/2024						
Yoana		Aguirre-Lopez	09/18/2024						

collegefortn.org/fafsa

Looking to find the right career or college for you? Get started with our career interest quiz and find the perfect fit for your future!

FIND A CAREER

-  **FINANCIAL AID INFO & CONTACT**
What is financial aid and who can help me?
-  **HOW TO FILL OUT THE FAFSA**
Tips and information for filling out your FAFSA.
-  **FINANCIAL AID MYTHS & TIPS**
Separating financial aid fact from fiction.
-  **TENNESSEE FINANCIAL AID**
Financial aid available in Tennessee.
-  **LIFESTYLE CALCULATOR**
A short quiz to learn what you'll need to earn.
-  **TSAC STUDENT PORTAL**
Create or log in to your TSAC Student Portal.



02 FIND WHAT CAREER BEST FITS YOU 

THEC  TSAC

State Aid Update

Dual Enrollment Grant

- *Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Summer 2025* application deadline is **June 30, 2025**
- **Effective July 1, 2025** (2025-26 academic year)
 - Separate DEGPA's for students enrolled at 2/4-yr colleges & TCATs
 - Students who do not achieve a 2.0 DEGPA at 2/4-yr college may remain DEG eligible at TCATs and vice versa

HOPE Scholarship

- ACT Superscores/Residual tests are not accepted
- HOPE ends after 5 years or attainment of an *advanced degree*
- College program of study – only coursework that counts toward your degree is eligible

HOPE Renewal

24 attempted hour benchmark

- 2.75 cumulative GPA*

48 attempted hour benchmark

- 2.75 cumulative GPA*

72 attempted hour benchmark

- 3.0 cumulative GPA* or
- 2.75 – 2.99 cumulative GPA* & 3.0 semester GPA* & Enroll full-time

96 attempted hour benchmark

- 3.0 cumulative GPA* or
- 2.75 – 2.99 cumulative GPA* & 3.0 semester GPA* & Enroll full-time

*If GPA unsatisfied, one-time regain and one-time repeat options

***Jason Seay messed up and
printed jana.mccall; sorry!!!***



robert.biggers@tn.gov
jana.stephens@tn.gov

 **tnpromise**

 **collegefortn.org**

TN Promise

- ***Early grads*** may enroll in spring semester;
Early + May grads may enroll in summer semester
 - Must complete **2024-25 + 2025-26 FAFSA** by **April 15, 2025**
 - Submit 8 hours of service by **April 1, 2025**
 - **Service timeframe August 1, 2024 – April 1, 2025**
(not reflected in handout)
- ***Hurricane Helene Guidance***



jason.seay@tn.gov
rita.turchetta@tn.gov
eric.farmer@tn.gov
erika.adams@tn.gov
dustin.rawls@tn.gov
felicia.orr@tn.gov
lori.Mitchum@tn.gov
jonathan.donald@tn.gov

 [tnpromise](https://twitter.com/tnpromise)

 collegefortn.org

What is Navigate Reconnect and What Can We Do For Adult Learners?



**NAVIGATE
RECONNECT**

Navigate Reconnect is the **regionally-based** component of Tennessee Reconnect which focuses on offering adult students a single point of contact for **college navigation and support services**.





Tennessee Reconnect is an initiative to help more adult students:

- Return or enroll in higher education institutions to gain new skills
- Advance in the workplace
- Fulfill lifelong dreams of completing a degree or credential

What is the difference between...



**TENNESSEE
RECONNECT**



**NAVIGATE
RECONNECT**

Reconnect Defined

Tennessee Reconnect

- Name of initiative
- Funding sources
 - Tennessee Reconnect Grant
 - TCAT Reconnect Grant
- Separate application process & eligibility criteria

Navigate Reconnect

- Outreach services
 - Navigators
- Support to reconnectors from pre-enrollment to graduation
- All adult learners can and should participate

Why would/should adults go (back) to college?

- Career advancement
- Achieve a personal goal
- Increase earning potential
- Financial stability
- Set an example for children/family
- Other reasons?



Where can adults use **Tennessee Reconnect**?

The Tennessee Reconnect Grant is available for eligible adults who want to pursue an **associate degree, technical degree, technical diploma at a Tennessee community or technical college.**

The Tennessee Reconnect Grant can also be used at an **eligible public or private college or university** towards an **eligible associate degree**, but it is not a last-dollar grant.

Tennessee Reconnect Grant Eligibility

- Be a Tennessee resident
- Complete the FAFSA and be classified as an independent student OR be at least 23 years of age on or before January 1 of the academic year
- Not have previously earned an associate or baccalaureate degree
 - Exception: **TCAT Reconnect**-remain eligible with degree
- Be a U.S. Citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Not be incarcerated*
- Not be in default on a student loan program
- Must submit transcripts from all previously attended institutions
- Be admitted to an eligible institution and enrolled at least part time (minimum 6 hours) in courses leading to a certificate or associate degree
- Complete the application and Reconnect Success Plan in the TSAC portal

***Currently incarcerated individuals (if eligible) may work with Re-Entry Navigators to prepare for attendance upon release.**

What does **Tennessee Reconnect** cover?

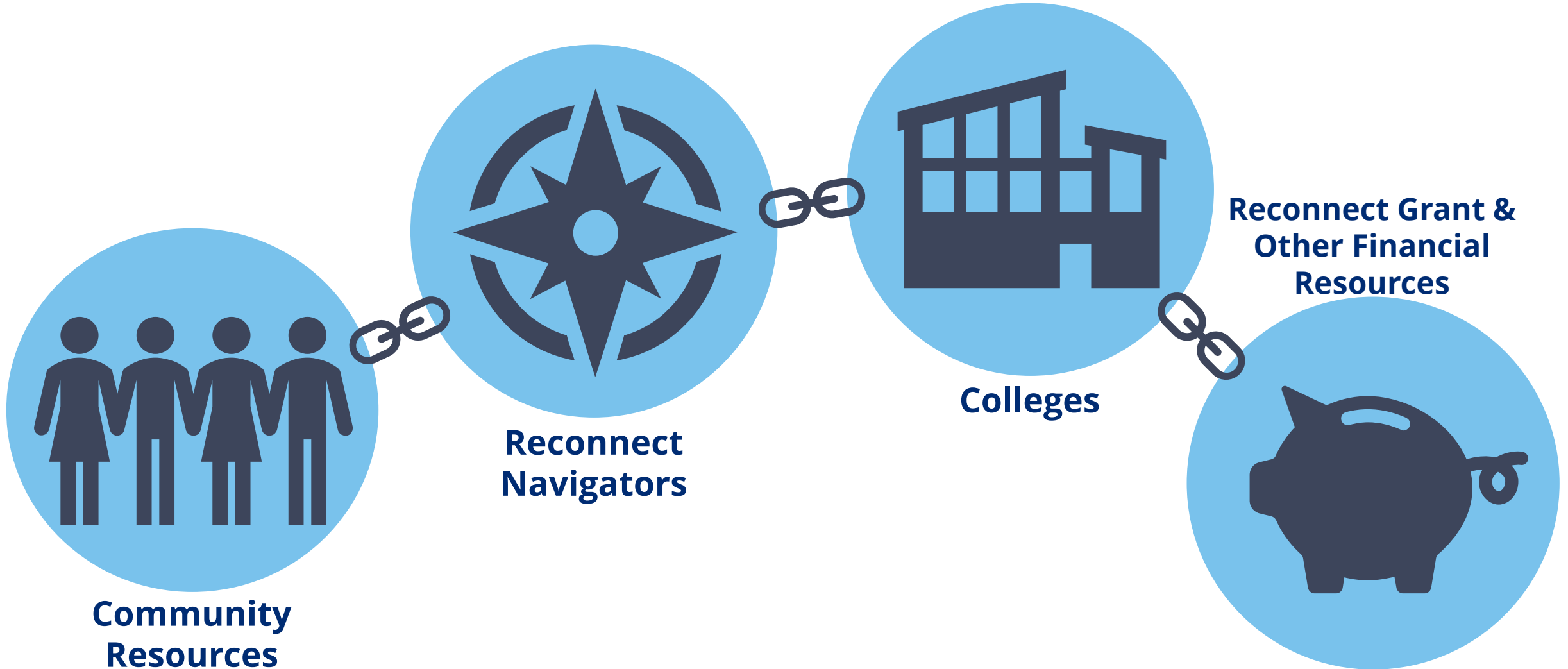
The Tennessee Reconnect Grant is a last-dollar grant that **pays the remaining balance of tuition and mandatory fees** after other state and federal financial aid have been applied.

What does Tennessee Reconnect NOT cover?

- Non-mandatory fees
- Course specific fees
- Textbooks
- Cost of certification tests for licensure
- Online course fees
- Lab fees
- Supplies/uniforms

Navigate Reconnect can work with adults to connect them to community or campus resources that may be able to assist with these additional costs.

How can Navigate Reconnect help adults?



Community Resources

Reconnect Navigators

Colleges

Reconnect Grant & Other Financial Resources

What can a Navigator do for adults?

Provide **college admissions support**:

- Instructions on next steps in college admissions processes
- Assistance with identifying college and career goals
- Support on selecting an academic program based on the student's specific needs
- Guidance on how to speak with school advisors and success coaches regarding their academic interests and course delivery needs

Provide **financial aid processes support**:

- Instructions and coaching on next steps for financial aid applications
- An understanding of financial aid and college costs
- Assisting with understanding and navigating appeals processes
- Referrals to campus or community resources that may be able to assist with additional financial costs

What can a Navigator do for adults?

Provide **support to and through the college journey** by offering:

- A single point of contact for questions regarding their educational journey
- Regular check-ins via call or text to provide ongoing support for successful enrollment
- Reminders about important dates and deadlines (FAFSA completion, course registration, fee deadlines, and more)
- Referrals to campus or community resources that may be able to assist with any barriers or challenges one may face throughout their college career

Provide **connections to college staff on campus** such as:

- Admissions/Records/Financial aid
- Business/Cashiers office
- Advising/Academic success centers
- Academic testing center
- Placement and career services
- IT/technology support
- Student support services (TRIO)
- Counseling office
- Disability services
- Veterans educational assistance
- Library services

What's next?

Visit our website: <https://tnreconnect.gov>



Reconnect Grant

Choose a Degree/College Path

Talk to a Navigator

Pay For College

Finish Faster



[Click here to apply for the Tennessee Reconnect Grant](#)



READY TO RECONNECT? LET'S GET STARTED!

Whether it's time to get serious about returning to school or you're starting to plan for your undergrad adventure, we've got you covered.

Refer adults via the Navigate Reconnect **interest form** at <https://tnreconnect.gov/Talk-to-a-Navigator>



Create a Student Passport | Login | About |  

TALK TO A NAVIGATOR

You've made the decision to go to college. Now what?
Talk to someone who can help you navigate the application and enrollment process.

Navigating the process of going to college for the first time or going back to college may seem overwhelming. But it doesn't have to be – we're here to help! This website will help you get the basic information you need to start the process. However, you also have access to personalized assistance and guidance from a Reconnect Navigator.

[Connect with a Navigator](#)



AMBASSADOR TRAINING



Working Together to Identify, Support, and Connect
Adult Learners to Postsecondary Education



Multiple sessions available—choose the
one that works best for you!

Become a Champion of Higher Education by becoming a Tennessee Reconnect Ambassador. Join our virtual training to empower your community and support adult learners on their path to college success.



**Whitney McLaughlin -
East/NE Region Director**
whitney.mclaughlin@tn.gov



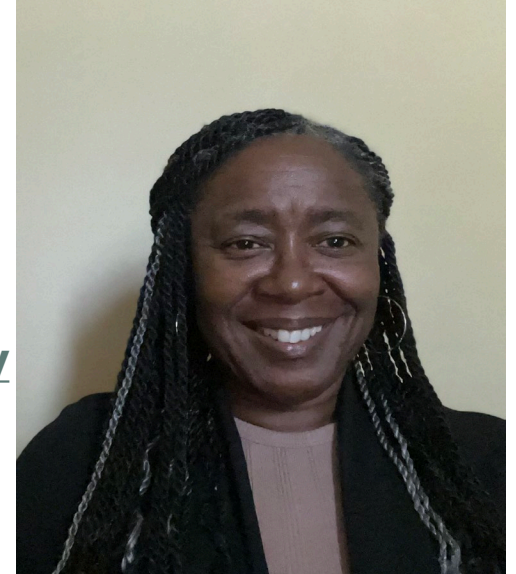
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Follow Us On
SOCIAL MEDIA

@TNRECONNECT



A promotional graphic for TNRECONNECT. It features a light blue background with a white rounded rectangle in the center. At the top of the rectangle is a circular logo containing a graduation cap, three stars, and a rainbow. Below the logo, the text "Follow Us On" is written in a cursive font, followed by "SOCIAL MEDIA" in a bold, dark blue sans-serif font. Underneath that, the handle "@TNRECONNECT" is enclosed in a purple rounded rectangle. To the right of the text is a pink pencil icon. To the left is a graduation cap icon. At the bottom of the rectangle are icons for Facebook, Instagram, X, and YouTube. A small blue zigzag line is at the bottom left of the graphic.



Q&A



**UPCOMING
EVENTS/
WEBINARS**

College Access Podcast Coming 2025!

Timely, relevant, and actionable information about state-funded financial aid programs, college admissions strategies, and effective methods for engaging students and their families.

Featuring guest experts who will provide insights and practical advice about paying for college, resources for students, and guiding the next generation through the college-going process.

Friday, November 15
**Dual Enrollment: Getting a
Head Start on College**

Friday, December 6
FAFSA is Open! (We Hope!!)
**What We Know with Jason
Seay**



WEBINARS
FOR TN

Sunday, December 1
TN FAFSA Frenzy Opens



Tuesday, December 31
Deadline to submit the
College Application &
Exploration Month Survey



Complete this short survey, then show the confirmation page to the folks in the hall to receive a parting gift with our thanks.



Complete this short survey, then show the confirmation page to the folks in the hall to receive a parting gift with our thanks.

